

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-21 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior art of record teaches sending to at least one storage system, a request to store a unit of data, the request including a retention period for the unit of data; determining, after expiration of at least some of the retention period, if a specified event has occurred; extending the retention period for the unit of data when it is determined that the specified event has not occurred; and repeatedly determining whether the specified event has occurred and extending the retention period until it is determined that the specified event has occurred.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

/Ryan Dare/

June 8, 2008

/Matt Kim/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2186